Message from the Chair

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Alumni:

We have had an exciting year which saw the initial planning for a new building for the Bob L. Herd Department of Petroleum Engineering.

The basic plan for the building has been completed. The new building will be located on the key, and will have an area of about 40,000 square ft. The ground breaking ceremony will take place on October 5, 2012 at 10 a.m. Please join us for this great occasion.

The department is home to approximately 450 undergraduate students and more than 70 graduate. We currently have eight full time tenured and tenure-track faculty, two instructors, four adjunct professors and five full time staff members.

In addition to emphasis on excellence in teaching, the Bob L. Herd Department of Petroleum Engineering has a strong emphasis on research. Members of the department have published and/or presented 16 papers in technical journals and conferences. Those technical papers covered a wide variety of topics ranging from traditional gas lift applications, to simulation, to fracturing and testing unconventional reservoirs.

For current updates please visit our website at www.depts.ttu.edu/pe often, and of course you are always welcome to visit in person.

M. Y. Soliman, Ph.D., P.E.
George P. Livermore Professor and Department Chair
Texas Tech SPE Chapter Named Gold Standard Student Chapter

The Texas Tech Chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers received the 2012 Gold Standard Student Chapter award for 2012. The chapter will be honored during the Student Awards Luncheon on Sunday, October 7, 2012 during the 2012 SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition in San Antonio, Texas.

There are 67 SPE student chapters in the United States and over 290 chapters worldwide.

Disser Receives McAuley Distinguished Engineering Student Award

Texas Tech’s Whitacre College of Engineering named Daniel Disser the 2012 recipient of the McAuley Distinguished Engineering Student Award.

Disser graduated in May 2012 with a 3.8 GPA.

Disser served as the president of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), the college’s largest student organization. He has worked to increase the number of community service events that SPE participates in from four to six per semester and has implemented a mentoring program for underclassmen.

In the summers of 2010 and 2011, Disser worked for Anadarko Petroleum Corp. as a production engineering intern and a completions engineer.

Before coming to Texas Tech, Disser completed a bachelor of science in corporate communications at the University of Texas at Austin. After completing his degree, he worked at an oil and gas company in Conroe, where he enjoyed the technical aspects of his job so much he decided return to school to pursue a degree in petroleum engineering.

Disser accepted a job after graduation with Anadarko in The Woodlands, Texas. He is working as a drilling engineer at the Eagle Ford Shale play designing well plans and monitoring drilling activities.

Students Receive Scholarships from Dallas SPE

The Bob L. Herd Department of Petroleum Engineering is proud to announce that four students from the department were awarded scholarships totaling $6000, for the 2012-2013 school year, from the Dallas Section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

Blake Garrett, Daniel Mason, Heindel Adu and Stephen Arnold were the recipients of these scholarships ranging from $500 to $1500 per semester.

This year, the Dallas Section of SPE awarded 47 scholarships totaling $76,000 to students in Texas colleges and universities.

The department will be awarding numerous scholarships for the school year including those from the Artificial Lite Research and Development Council, Southwestern Petroleum Short Course Association, Chesapeake Oil Company, and the Houston Chapter of API.

Petroleum Engineering Alumni Invited to Reception at SPE ATCE 2012

The Bob L. Herd Department of Petroleum Engineering will be hosting an alumni reception at the 2012 Society of Petroleum Engineers’ Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition (SPE ATCE) in San Antonio on October 8-10.

All Texas Tech petroleum engineering alumni are invited to the reception, which will be held on October 8 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Bonham C Room on the third floor of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Since its first conference 88 years ago, the Society of Petroleum Engineers’ Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition (ATCE) has attracted more than a half million of the E&P industry’s greatest minds from more than 50 countries around the world.

Technical sessions, presented concurrently with an exhibition, focus on all phases of oil and gas exploration and production. Special events allow E&P professionals to network with colleagues from around the world and celebrate key successes in the industry.

We look forward to visiting with our alumni about their careers and discussing the exciting future of the department.

More information on the conference can be found at www.spe.org/atce/2012
Watson Elected President of the Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers

Dr. Marshall Watson, an assistant professor of petroleum engineering, was recently elected president of the Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers (SPEE). Watson is the first president from academia in the 50 years of the society.

The organization is a professional association formed in 1962 with the goal of bringing together specialists in the evaluation of petroleum properties. With nine local chapters and 550 members throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe, the SPEE provides educational services to both its members and the oil and gas industry, fosters the spirit of scientific research among its members, and promotes the profession of petroleum evaluation engineering.

Watson will serve as president for one year, and then move to the position of past-president for a year. For more information on the SPEE visit www.spee.org

He also received “A Most Influential Faculty Member” award this past semester. He has received it every semester since beginning his tenure at Texas Tech in 2009.

New Instructor: Richard M. Bateman

Richard M. Bateman has joined the department as an instructor. He was educated in the United Kingdom, obtaining a master’s degree in natural science and physics from Oxford University.

He began his career in the oil industry in South America as a field engineer for Schlumberger. He worked in many North and South American field locations and later spent three years at the Schlumberger Doll Research Center in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

He later joined Amoco and has also held posts as chief petrophysicist of Halliburton Logging Services, Engineering Manager for Bridas (now Pan American Energy) and Regional Manager for Gaffney Cline & Associates’ Latin American operations, based in Buenos Aires. More recently Bateman has been an instructor in well log interpretation and petrophysics for PetroSkills/OGCI.

He has authored four books and multiple patents and technical papers. He is a senior and life member of SPE and is also active with SPWLA and SCA.

New Visiting Professor: Dr. Davis Ford

Dr. Davis Ford has joined the department as a visiting professor. He is a practicing environmental engineer with more than forty-five years of experience in the field. In addition, he serves on the faculty at The University of Texas at Austin as an adjunct professor, has published more than one hundred technical papers, has co-authored or contributed to ten textbooks, and written two biographies and co-authored one children’s book.

He has lectured extensively throughout the United States and in countries of Europe, South America, and Asia. Ford received his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at Texas A&M University and his master and doctorate degrees in environmental engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. He is a Distinguished Engineering Graduate of both Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin, as well as a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M.

Ford was elected into the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). He has served as president of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and chairman of the Academy Ethics Committee. His honorary affiliations include Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, and Chi Epsilon.

New Adjunct Professor: Dr. Robello Samuel

Dr. Robello Samuel has joined the department as an adjunct professor. He is a chief technical advisor in the drilling division of Halliburton and has worked for Halliburton since 1998.

He is currently a technical and engineering lead for a well planning engineering application for drilling and completions operations and responsible for world-wide technical support in the area of drilling engineering.

He has more than twenty years of multi-disciplinary experience in domestic and international oil/gas drilling and completion operations, management, consulting, software development and teaching and one year creditable work experience in a manufacturing industry.

He has published more than 90 technical papers. He also published five technical books.

He is presently serving as a review chairman on the Journal of Drilling and Completions and Journal of Petroleum Sciences and Engineering Editorial Review Committees, and co-chairman of SPE Multilateral Technical Interest Group.
New Petroleum Engineering Building: A New Era in Petroleum Engineering Production and Operations Education

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The new petroleum engineering research building will feature a unique cluster of laboratories. Through the integration of these laboratories, a systems approach will be taken in petroleum engineering education that covers the entire spectrum of exploration and production, including business profitability analysis.

Each of the labs will be associated with the overall petroleum engineering curriculum or specific courses and will tightly integrate with students’ experiences in other laboratories and other disciplines such as geosciences and environmental engineering.

The integrated petroleum laboratories will offer students both a theoretical and practical education that compliments classroom material through hands-on applications. The building will feature the following laboratories, teaching, and research areas:

- Unconventional Technology Center
- Fracturing Techniques Center
- Fluids Laboratory
- Reservoir Simulation Center and Drilling Laboratory
- Rheology Laboratory
- Pressure Volume Temperature Laboratory

This building is symbolic of Texas Tech’s commitment to the petroleum industry and its investment to propel this program to the top of petroleum engineering departments.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held this fall on the Engineering Key.

Keeping in Touch

The Texas Tech Bob L. Herd Department of Petroleum Engineering would like to know what is happening in your professional life. Visit the following website to update your information or let us know about your accomplishments: www.coe.ttu.edu/info